AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-12. (canceled)

13. (new) A method of speech recognition comprising:

receiving a sequence of transmitted feature vectors, said feature vectors representing a speech signal and comprising features in a parameterized domain determined by processing basic features of the speech signal;

detecting the absence of a feature vector in the received sequence;

generating an estimated replacement feature vector for the detected absent feature vector by converting a received differential feature vector to a spectral domain, estimating a spectral component of said feature vector by interpolating the corresponding component of the converted feature vector, and converting the estimated spectral component to said parameterized domain of the frequencies of the speech signal;

inserting said replacement feature vector into the received feature vector sequence to provide a modified feature vector sequence; and

performing speech recognition upon the modified feature vector sequence.

14. (new) The method as in claim 13, wherein said parameterized domain comprises a cepstral domain.

15. (new) The method as in claim 13, wherein said parameterized domain comprises a domain determined using a feature vector processing technique which calculates a differential of said transmitted feature vectors.

16. (new) The method as in claim 13, in which said estimating the spectral component of said feature vector uses an interpolation coefficient corresponding to a spectral component of the received feature vector and further comprises updating the interpolation coefficient in response according to one or more received feature vectors.

17. (new) The method as in claim 13, in which a received feature vector includes an additional feature which indicates the position of each feature vector in the sequence of transmitted feature vectors.

18. (new) The method as in claim 17, wherein in said detecting the absence of a feature vector, a feature vector is determined to be missing from the received sequence of feature vectors by checking the feature vector number of each feature vector received.

19. (new) The method as in claim 18, wherein in said sequence of transmitted feature vectors, said generating an estimated replacement feature vector is performed separately for each missing feature vector.

20. (new) The method as in claim 18, wherein in said estimating a spectral component of a replacement feature vector, the corresponding component of the converted feature vector is determined by interpolating a polynomial formed from a time series of said feature vector.

21. (new) A device for performing speech recognition upon a sequence of feature vectors representing a speech signal, wherein said feature vectors comprise features in a parameterized domain determined by processing basic features of the speech signal, the device comprising:

a missing feature vector detector arranged in operation to receive the transmitted feature vectors and to indicate the absence of a feature vector in the received sequence;

a feature vector estimator arranged, in operation, to receive transmitted feature vectors and responsive to said indication from the missing feature vector detector to estimate a replacement feature vector, wherein said feature vector estimator comprises: a first converter for converting a received feature vector of said parameterized domain to a spectral domain, an estimator for estimating a

spectral component by interpolating the corresponding component of the converted frame, and a second converter for converting the estimated spectral component to said parameterized domain;

a sequence reconstructer arranged, in operation, to receive transmitted feature vectors and to receive a replacement feature vector and to provide as an output a modified feature vector sequence; and

a speech recognizer arranged, in operation, to receive the modified feature vector sequence.

22. (new) The device as in claim 21, wherein said parameterized domain comprises a cepstral domain.

23. (new) The device as in claim 21, wherein said parameterized domain comprises a domain determined using a feature vector processing technique which calculates a differential of said transmitted feature vectors.

24. (new) The device as in claim 21, in which the interpolating uses an interpolation coefficient corresponding to a component of the received feature vector and the interpolation coefficient is updated in response to receipt of a feature vector.

25. (new) A data carrier loadable into and readable by a computer, and carrying instructions for causing the computer to carry out the method according to claim 13.

26. (new) A data carrier loadable into and readable by a computer, and carrying instructions for enabling the computer to provide the device according to claim 21.